

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-44. (Cancelled)

45. (New) An illumination apparatus for displays comprising:  
a first panel comprising a grid of high intensity light point sources and  
a diffuser panel capable of softening and giving a uniform appearance  
to the light emitted by said first panel, the light passing directly from the  
point sources to the diffuser panel, and  
a display panel;  
the first panel and the diffuser panel providing a uniform high intensity  
backlighting to the display panel, wherein the panels, each defining a  
plane, overlay one another in the sequence stated with their planes  
parallel to one another.
46. (New) The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the high intensity light point sources  
are LEDs.
47. (New) The apparatus of claim 46 wherein the LEDs are aligned in a plurality  
of columns and rows.
48. (New) The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the first panel comprises a grid of  
high intensity light sources and a reflective background.
49. (New) The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the first panel comprises a grid of  
LEDs and a reflective background.
50. (New) The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the first panel has a white  
background.
51. (New) The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the diffuser panel is made of glass.
52. (New) The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the diffuser panel is made of  
polycarbonate.
53. (New) The apparatus of claim 45 further comprising a cover panel overlaying  
the display panel opposite the diffuser panel.
54. (New) The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the cover is made of glass or  
polycarbonate.

55. (New) The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the display panel is an LCD display panel.
56. (New) The apparatus of claim 55 wherein the display panel is part of a television.
57. (New) The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the display panel is an organic display panel.
58. (New) An illumination apparatus for displays comprising:  
a first panel comprising a grid of high intensity light point sources,  
a second panel comprising a panel of Fresnel lenses, and  
a diffuser panel capable of softening and giving a uniform appearance to the light emitted by said first panel, the light passing directly from the point sources to the Fresnel lenses and, subsequently, to the diffuser panel, and  
a display panel;  
the first panel, the second panel, and the diffuser panel providing a uniform high intensity backlighting to the display panel, wherein the panels, each defining a plane, overlay one another in the sequence stated with their planes parallel to one another.
59. (New) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the high intensity light point sources are LEDs.
60. (New) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the LEDs are aligned in a plurality of columns and rows.
61. (New) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the first panel comprises a grid of high intensity light sources and a reflective background.
62. (New) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the first panel comprises a grid of LEDs and a reflective background.
63. (New) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the first panel has a white background.
64. (New) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the diffuser panel is made of glass.
65. (New) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the diffuser panel is made of polycarbonate.

- 66. (New) The apparatus of claim 58 further comprising a cover panel overlaying the display panel opposite the diffuser panel.
- 67. (New) The apparatus of claim 66 wherein the cover is made of glass or polycarbonate.
- 68. (New) An LCD or organic display having uniform high intensity backlighting wherein said backlighting is provided by an apparatus comprising:  
a first panel comprising a grid of high intensity light point sources and  
a diffuser panel capable of softening and giving a uniform appearance to the light emitted by said first panel, the light passing directly from the point sources to the diffuser panel; wherein the panels, each defining a plane, overlay one another in the sequence stated with their planes parallel to one another.
- 69. (New) The display of claim 68 wherein the high intensity light point sources are LEDs.
- 70. (New) The display of claim 68 wherein the first panel comprises a grid of high intensity light sources and a reflective background.
- 71. (New) The display of claim 68 wherein the first panel comprises a grid of LEDs and a white background.
- 72. (New) The display of claim 68 wherein the diffuser panel is made of glass or polycarbonate.
- 73. (New) The display of claim 68 wherein the display is an LCD display.
- 74. (New) The display of claim 68 wherein the display is an LCD television.
- 75. (New) An LCD or organic display having uniform high intensity backlighting wherein said backlighting is provided by an apparatus comprising:  
a first panel comprising a grid of high intensity light point sources,  
a second panel comprising a panel of Fresnel lenses, and  
a diffuser panel capable of softening and giving a uniform appearance to the light emitted by said first panel, the light passing directly from the point sources to the Fresnel lenses and, subsequently, to the diffuser panel; wherein the panels, each defining a plane, overlay one another in the sequence stated with their planes parallel to one another.

- 76. (New) The display of claim 75 wherein the high intensity light point sources are LEDs.
- 77. (New) The display of claim 75 wherein the first panel comprises a grid of high intensity light sources and a reflective background.
- 78. (New) The display of claim 75 wherein the first panel comprises a grid of LEDs and a white background.
- 79. (New) The display of claim 75 wherein the diffuser panel is made of glass or polycarbonate.
- 80. (New) The display of claim 75 wherein the display is an LCD display.
- 81. (New) The display of claim 75 wherein the display is an LCD television.